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PROGRAM The Today Show

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CITY Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT The CIA

TOM BROKAW: America's Central Intelligence Agency, or the Company, as it's known to insiders, has been under assault for the past couple of years, both for its organization and for some abuses that the CIA has engaged in here, as well as abroad. Recently, a number of people were let go from the CIA, and there have been stories that a lot of people who are left there are not happy with the current operation under the direction of Admiral Stansfield Turner.

Well, Ford Rowan, who covers that agency for NBC News, recently was able to get inside and to get an evaluation of how the CIA is standing up under all of this criticism. He's in our Washington News Center this morning. And Ford, why don't you bring us up to date.

FORD ROWAN: Good morning, Tom.

CIA Director Stansfield Turner says he wants a CIA that's lean and mean. Some eight hundred and twenty positions in the clandestine service are being cut.

To find out if morale has really been hurt, we talked to some people inside the CIA and some people who used to be inside the CIA.

These are not three CIA spies on a covert mission. But they do work for the CIA. They're commuters who have found that the shortest distance between their homes and the agency's Langley, Virginia headquarters is across the Potomac River. We show you this unique way of commuting because we found that the CIA is full of unique people.

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